

1 1. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a display;
3 a user operable element positioned over the
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the
5 element, said operable element having a non-monotonic
6 response to user actuation; and
7 a switch operatively coupled to the operable
8 element.

1 2. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1 3. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1 4. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1 5. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.

1 6. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1
2 further comprising a lens positioned over the display to
3 enable viewing of the display through the lens.

1 7. A processor-based system as recited in claim 1
2 further comprising a light pipe positioned over the display
3 to enable viewing of the display through the light pipe.

1 8. A processor-based system as recited in claim 10
2 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

1 9. An apparatus comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a display operatively coupled to said processor;
4 a user operable element positioned over the
5 display to enable viewing of the display through the
6 element, said operable element having a non-monotonic
7 response to user actuation; and,
8 a switch mechanically connected to the operable
9 element and electrically coupled to the processor.

1 10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein the
2 user-operable element is a push button.

1 11. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a touch screen display;
3 a user operable element positioned over the
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the
5 element, said operable element having a non-monotonic
6 response to user actuation; and,

7 a contactor operatively coupled to the operable
8 element such that actuation of said element causes contact
9 with the touch screen display.

1 12. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1 13. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a display;
3 a user-operable element positioned over the
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the
5 element;
6 a switch operatively coupled to said operable
7 element; and
8 a resilient element connected to said operable
9 element such that operation of said operable element is
10 resisted with a non-monotonic force.

1 14. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13
2 wherein the resilient element is a rubber dome.

1 15. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13
2 wherein the resilient element is a coil spring which breaks
3 out of column in response to compressive force.

1 16. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a display;
3 a user-operable element having a lens positioned
4 over said display to enable viewing of the display through
5 the lens; and,
6 a switch operatively coupled to said operable
7 element.

1 17. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1 18. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1 19. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1 20. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a display;
3 a user-operable element having a light pipe
4 positioned over said display to enable viewing of the
5 display through the light pipe; and,
6 a switch operatively coupled to said operable
7 element.

1 21. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1 22. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1 23. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1 24. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20
2 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.

1 25. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20
2 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

1 26. A method comprising:
2 providing a user-operable element for
3 installation over a display;
4 providing a transparent part on the user-operable
5 element that allows a portion of the display to be viewed
6 through said element; and
7 creating a non-monotonic response to actuation of
8 said element.

1 27. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing
2 a transparent part includes providing a lens.

1 28. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing
2 a transparent part includes providing a light pipe.

1 29. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing
2 a user-operable element includes providing a push button.

1 30. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing
2 a user-operable element for installation over a display
3 includes providing an element for installation over a touch
4 screen display.